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USDA SCHEDULES REFERENDUM FOR SEEDLESS CUCUMBER MARKETING ORDER

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has scheduled an Oct. 8-Nov. 9 referendum to determine support for its recommendation for a federal marketing order for greenhouse cucumbers. The new marketing order would allow establishment of minimum grade, size, quality and packing requirements and promote the research and marketing of greenhouse cucumbers.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the order would provide greenhouse growers with a means of assuring acceptable quality and standardized packs of greenhouse cucumbers in the marketplace.

An 11-member administrative committee would administer the order, Haley said. Seven members of the committee would be selected from growers and would represent them, three would represent handlers, and one would represent the public at large.

The members of the administrative committee would serve three-year terms and would be compensated only for expenses incurred in performing their duties for the committee.

"The secretary of agriculture would appoint the greenhouse cucumber handler and grower members from a list of peer-selected nominees, and then would select the public member from nominees offered by the ten grower and handler members," Haley said.

An assessment levied on greenhouse cucumber handlers would finance the program. The rate would be established once a year by the secretary of agriculture and would be based on a recommendation by the order's administrative committee.

Authority for marketing orders for agricultural commodities rests in the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, said Haley.

Based on the record of a July 26-28, 1988, public hearing in Sacramento, Calif., USDA's recommendation of the order appeared in the Oct. 11, 1989, Federal Register and was announced in an Oct. 6, 1989, news release. The American Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association had petitioned USDA for such an order.

To become effective, the recommendation must be: (1) approved by at least two-thirds of those voting, or (2) approved by voters representing at least two-thirds of the volume of greenhouse cucumbers grown in 1989 by those voting in the referendum. If balloting favors the order, the secretary will consider issuing a final rule creating the order.

Notice of the referendum will appear in the Sept. 17 Federal Register. Copies are available from Kenneth G. Johnson, Marketing Specialist, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Marketing Order Administration Branch, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Rm. 2525-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-2020.

USDA will mail ballots and voting instructions to all greenhouse cucumber producers of record. Producers not receiving ballots may obtain them from Johnson.

Clearence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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USDA REDUCES MEDFLY QUARANTINE IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is removing from quarantine several areas near Los Angeles, Calif., which were restricted to contain an outbreak of Mediterranean fruit fly, or Medfly.

"We have determined that the Medfly has been eradicated from these areas and the quarantine restrictions are no longer necessary," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "However, the remainder of the quarantine stays in effect."

Areas near Los Angeles were first quarantined on Aug. 23, 1989, and the quarantine was enlarged when extensive fly trapping indicated the outbreak had spread. Last month, eradication efforts had progressed to the point that some areas were released from quarantine.

The current reduction covers areas in Los Angeles County near Lynwood and South Gate plus the San Fernando Valley and areas east to Azusa. In addition, the Medfly quarantine is being lifted from the northern section of Anaheim in Orange County.

The Medfly quarantine in Los Angeles County overlaps part of the quarantine area for another exotic pest, the Oriental fruit fly. In a portion

of the overlapping area, around Elysian Park, the Oriental fruit fly quarantine also is being lifted.

The last Medfly was trapped on Jan. 24, 1990 in the Lynwood-South Gate area; on April 17, 1990 in the San Fernando-Azusa area; and on Nov. 17, 1989 in the Anaheim area. The last Oriental fruit fly in the Elysian Park area was trapped on Oct. 9, 1989.

An interim rule, effective Sept. 6, details the areas where the quarantine is being lifted; the rule is being published in the Sept. 13 Federal Register.

Comments on the interim rule will be accepted if they are received on or before Nov. 13. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 90-175 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1- 1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 14, through midnight Thursday, Sept. 20.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988, 1989, and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80, 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency

payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Sept. 13, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price 81.21

Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location 13.09

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton 2.15

Average U.S. location 0.35

Sum of Adjustments -15.59

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE 65.62 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price 81.21

Northern Europe Coarse Count Price -77.40

3.81

Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton -4.10

-0.29

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT 0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Sept. 20.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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USDA ANNOUNCES SUGAR IMPORTS FOR 1990/91 PERIOD

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced that U.S. sugar imports permitted at the lower duty level under the tariff rate quota for sugar in the 1990/91 period will be 1,725,000 metric tons, raw value, an increase of 6.5 percent compared to 1989/90. This will be effective Oct. 1, 1990.

The total authorized shipments of 1,725,000 metric tons are equal to about 1,901,488 short tons, raw value. Total authorized shipments are the sum of the specialty sugar imports, the minimum boatload total allocation, the adjustment amount and the base import minus certain adjustments in the base imports.

For the Oct. 1, 1990 to Sept. 30, 1991 period, 4,877 metric tons, raw value (about 5,376 short tons, raw value) is established as the adjustment amount; 1,815 metric tons, raw value (about 2,000 short tons, raw value) is established as the specialty sugar imports; and 1,659,000 metric tons, raw value (about 1,828,736 short tons, raw value) is established as the base imports. In addition, the minimum boatload total allocation is set at 72,580 metric tons, raw value (about 80,006 short tons, raw value.)

The 1990/91 country-by-country allocations were announced today by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills. These allocations are as follows (in metric tons, raw value, with the equivalent short tons, raw value, in parentheses):

Country Allocations for U.S. Sugar Import Quota (Oct. 1, 1990 - Sept. 30, 1991)

	Metric Tons	Short Tons		Metric Tons	Short Tons
Argentina	71,344	(78,643)	Australia	137,710	(151,799)
Barbados	11,614	(12,802)	Belize	18,251	(20,118)
Bolivia	13,273	(14,631)	Brazil	240,578	(265,192)
Colombia	39,820	(43,894)	Congo	7,730	(8,521)
Costa Rica	24,887	(27,433)	Dominican Rep...	292,010	(321,886)
Ecuador	18,251	(20,118)	El Salvador	43,138	(47,552)
Fiji	14,932	(16,460)	Gabon	7,730	(8,521)
Guatemala	79,640	(87,788)	Guyana	19,910	(21,947)
Haiti	7,730	(8,521)	Honduras	16,592	(18,290)
India	13,273	(14,631)	Cote d'Ivoire	7,730	(8,521)
Jamaica	18,251	(20,118)	Madagascar	7,730	(8,521)
Malawi	16,592	(18,290)	Mauritius	19,910	(21,947)
Mexico	7,730	(8,521)	Mozambique	21,569	(23,776)
Nicaragua	34,842	(38,407)	Panama	48,116	(53,039)
Papua New Guinea .	7,730	(8,521)	Paraguay	7,730	(8,521)
Peru	68,026	(74,986)	Philippines	262,147	(288,968)
St. Kitts	7,730	(8,521)	Swaziland	26,547	(29,263)
Taiwan	19,910	(21,947)	Thailand	23,228	(25,605)
Trinidad-Tobago ...	11,614	(12,802)	Uruguay	7,730	(8,521)
Zimbabwe	19,910	(21,947)			

Al Maruggi (202) 447-5654

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USDA TO OBSERVE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter will keynote the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. on Sept. 18 in the patio of USDA's Administration Building, The Mall.

The theme for the month-long observance is "500 Years of Hispanic Heritage 1492-1992, Education Excellence—Key to our Future."

"Hispanic Heritage Month provides us all with an opportunity to recognize the many contributions that Hispanics have made in the development of our country," said Yeutter.

"This month, set aside by Presidential Proclamation, will highlight Hispanic achievements throughout our nation's history," said Assistant Secretary for Administration Adis M. Vila. "We look to a much brighter future with a new decade at our doorstep."

Earlier this year, Yeutter released a comprehensive plan for building a culturally diverse work force at USDA. Yeutter said, "The plan—Framework for Change: Work Force Diversity and Delivery of Programs—will serve as a blueprint for all USDA employees. Each of us is responsible for treating our colleagues, employees and program constituents fairly."

"The USDA observance of Hispanic Heritage Month will give all our employees an opportunity to honor Hispanic contributions to our way of life and become aware of Hispanic aspirations in the work force," said Vila.

Vie Tidwell (202) 382-0352

#

EXTENSION SYSTEM RECEIVES \$5.9 MILLION KELLOGG GRANT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18—The W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich., has presented U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension System and its 4-H youth education program with a \$5.9 million grant to support the Community CARES (Creating Action for Responsibility, Education and Support) program over a three-year period.

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter said the program will build and strengthen community support systems for the National Youth At Risk Initiative within the Cooperative Extension System. "This unique program helps the youth of America deal with the potential risks of society," he said.

The goal of the program is to work at the community level with caring people acting with real resources to make a significant difference in the lives of young people and families. The plan of action brings USDA's Extension Service, National 4-H Council, Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP), and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) together with the Kellogg Foundation in a partnership of capacity building, caring and action for hundreds of thousands of America's youth. The program deals with issues such as poverty, poor health and nutrition, child neglect and abuse, teenage pregnancy, and substance abuse.

"The grant from the Kellogg Foundation emphasizes the value and importance of public-private partnerships which take maximum advantage of resources available through the federal, state and private sectors," Yeutter said. "Furthermore, the grant demonstrates the faith and support the Kellogg Foundation has for Extension's 4-H Youth program in providing valuable leadership to the nation's youth at risk crisis through its youth development education and outreach."

"The Kellogg Foundation's investment in this partnership via Community CARES will help create an even greater, sustained capacity to build youth potential," said Richard J. Sauer, president, National 4-H Council. "Our approach, one of building youth potential, can make a positive difference in the lives of many young people from the most rural to the most urban populations."

"Action is critical if the nation is to have a viable future work force. The action must take place at the community level with formal and non-formal education forming partnerships for change," said Leah Cox Hooper, deputy administrator for 4-H and Youth Development in the Extension Service.

"The time for recognizing the great potential for non-formal education's role in partnership with formal education and the community is now. The initiative, focusing on developing youth potential, is the vehicle to catalyze the role of non-formal education and build capacity for moving the Extension organization into the 21st century," Hooper said.

The Extension Service has a targeted initiative in the president's 1991 budget for programming with at-risk young people. The Kellogg partnership focuses on capacity building within the CES, community, family and youth. The grant will add needed components to Extension's youth at risk effort by supporting an overall consulting think tank, funding model training sites, supporting program development design teams, funding the enhancement of the systems' capacity for a new level of private resource development, and preparing the CES for immediate action.

4-H is the largest voluntary youth education program in the country, now reaching more than 5 million young people. As the youth program of the Cooperative Extension System of the state land-grant universities and the Extension Service, 4-H is a unique educational system with access to federal, state and local resources.

National 4-H Council is a non-profit organization that uses private resources to enhance the development and education of youth.

Cathy Selberg (202) 447-6084

#

RESEARCHERS SENDING OUT TASTY NEWS VIA THE GRAPEVINE

WASHINGTON—Luscious new black and red seedless grapes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture may join Flame Seedless, America's most popular red seedless grape, at the grocery store in a few years.

"Every major grape nursery in California asked us for cuttings to grow new vines of Fantasy Seedless, a black grape, and Crimson Seedless, a red grape," said David W. Ramming of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"If Fantasy Seedless and Crimson Seedless meet the exacting standards of nurseries, breeders and growers, they might show up in supermarket produce sections in three to five years," he said. Ramming is based at the ARS Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory in Fresno, Calif., where Flame Seedless was launched in 1973.

The work by Ramming and his colleagues is part of a story on ARS grape research in the agency's latest Agricultural Research magazine. The magazine cover sports a closeup of Crimson, Fantasy, Flame and two

other recent varieties of grapes from Ramming's lab and vineyard research.

"Because Fantasy's berries are naturally large," said Ramming, "growers don't need to boost berry size by applying gibberellic acid (a plant hormone) or girdling the plants." Girdling is a technique in which an incision around the vine's trunk temporarily interrupts the normal flow of nutrients.

Fantasy is harvested in midsummer. Crimson Seedless, said Ramming, is for September and October and could replace Emperor, a seeded red grape that ripens about that time. "People don't like to spit out seeds," he said.

The Fresno scientists now are tackling challenges such as producing a tasty "white"—what shoppers consider "green"—seedless grape that's ready in May. The popular Perlette white grape sold at that time of year requires costly hand-thinning; ideally, the hoped-for white seedless wouldn't, said Ramming, a research horticulturist.

To produce new grapes, Ramming and colleagues rely not only on conventional breeding methods—as with Fantasy Seedless and Crimson Seedless, but also on a high-tech procedure, embryo rescue. The Fresno scientists were the first to apply that technique in grape breeding.

Embryo rescue permits the successful cross of two seedless parents to produce a healthy seedling, a feat not normally possible in nature or with conventional breeding. The technique may someday yield a new seedless muscat-flavored grape variety for the fresh market and perhaps raisin making.

"There's a muscat table grape called Italia already on the market," he noted, "but it's seeded." And Muscat of Alexandria, used for drying into raisins, also has seeds, he said. "That means raisin packers have to punch the seed out, breaking the skin and making the muscat raisins stick together in the box."

The Fresno team also seeks a raisin grape that would dry on the vine. This would enable harvesting by fast-moving mechanized shakers instead of hand labor, which is expected to become increasingly scarce.

Last spring, the Fresno team planted almost 10,000 vines for raisin and fresh-market grapes—some bred conventionally, others through embryo rescue—that they will test to narrow down the search for promising candidates.

The agency magazine also describes efforts at other ARS labs around the country, often in cooperation with industry, universities and agricultural experiment stations, to:

- More quickly and surely determine if imported grapevines contain diseases that could damage the U.S. grape industry.
- Match up individual grape varieties with best kind of packaging to guard grape quality during storage and shipping.
- Develop lures to disrupt mating and reproduction of a southern grape pest, the grape root borer.
- Find and test ways to control vineyard weeds with less herbicide use.
- Conserve irrigation water.
- Search for ways to better ensure that residues from fumigants used on stored grapes are within allowed limits.
- Revive the dormant U.S. native muscadine grape industry through more economical methods to grow the crop for juice.
- Collect and preserve vines of domestic and foreign, wild and cultivated varieties that may hold genetic traits such as disease resistance and drought tolerance.

Marcia Wood (415) 559-6070

Issued: Sept. 18, 1990

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FRENCH SWITCH FROM FLAKY CROISSANTS TO CORN FLAKES

WASHINGTON—In France, more and more consumers are giving up their buttery morning croissants for corn flakes, and trips to the local bakery are being replaced by a stroll to the pantry for a box of honey-coated cereal. In short, French breakfast tastes are changing, and those changes spell opportunity for U.S. products, according to a marketing expert with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

In an article in the October issue of FAS' AgExporter Magazine, Martine Brunet, until recently a marketing specialist in the office of the U.S. agricultural counselor in Paris, says changing French breakfast tastes are creating potential for U.S. cereal sales to France.

"French consumers munched their way through a record 33,000 metric tons of breakfast cereal last year," Brunet reports. "Sales of breakfast

cereals were up 25 percent in value in 1989 to \$170 million, following on the heels of more than 80 percent growth during 1985-88."

French consumption of breakfast cereals began to grow significantly in the early 1980s, about the same time concerns about health and diet started to increase.

"With less than 25 percent of French households currently eating breakfast cereals, the potential for growth is tremendous," says Brunet. French per capita cereal consumption in 1989 is estimated at 21 ounces, well behind other northern European countries such as the United Kingdom, where per capita consumption of breakfast cereals is 2.71 pounds, and far behind the United States at 14.6 pounds.

Children's varieties such as chocolate, caramel and honey cereals accounted for almost 45 percent of total cereal sales by volume in France in 1989. Adult varieties such as meusli accounted for 38 percent. And family varieties such as corn flakes and cereal biscuits accounted for 17 percent.

According to Brunet, the French have a taste for new, innovative cereals targeted at niche markets and distributed through specialty food stores. New varieties are continuously appearing on the French market. From only 11 varieties in 1980, French consumers can now choose from 120. The more popular new varieties are vitamin- and mineral-enriched cereals aimed at health conscious consumers.

European companies currently dominate the competitive breakfast cereal market in France. But that doesn't mean U.S. cereal companies should shy away from the French market, says Brunet. FAS agricultural marketing experts in Washington and Paris can advise U.S. exporters on meeting product labeling requirements, identify French importers and brokers, and provide other services to exporters who want to take advantage of this growing market opportunity.

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 382-9442
Issued Sept. 18, 1990

#

OWNER OF NEW JERSEY MEAT FIRM FINED FOR INSPECTION VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18—A federal court has fined M. Richard Cohen, owner of William Cohen & Sons, Inc., which does business as Quality Foods Company, in Camden, N.J., \$2,000 and placed him on three years probation for violating federal meat inspection laws.

On Aug. 23, the U.S. District Court in Pensacola, Fla., convicted Cohen on two misdemeanors for selling and transporting misbranded and adulterated chipped beef steaks, as well as offering them for sale and transportation. Cohen pled guilty to both misdemeanors, according to Dr. Lester M. Crawford, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

In January 1983, Cohen began adding a solution of water, phosphate and salt to chipped beef steak, which increased the bulk and weight of the product. Product labels failed to disclose the added solution. In September 1984, approximately 13,000 pounds of the misbranded and adulterated products were distributed in commerce.

The violations were discovered during routine product sampling at the retail level.

Cohen is currently serving 30 months in prison for federal tax violations.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to ensuring meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.18 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.22 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.16 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.09 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.14 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.65 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.63 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 25 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

#

NEW RED LENTIL AND BABY GARBANZO MAY APPEAL TO CONSUMERS, FARMERS

WASHINGTON—A new mini garbanzo and a new reddish-orange lentil could become tasty alternatives to the large garbanzos and beige lentils familiar to U.S. consumers, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

“Sarah’ chickpeas have a nuttier, more peppery flavor compared to salad bar-type garbonzos. And ‘Crimson’ red lentils have a more distinctive lentil flavor than the beige types common in the United States,” said Frederick J. Muehlbauer of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service in Pullman, Wash. “Both of the new varieties also are rich in fiber and protein.”

Sarah and Crimson, he added, may also become profitable crops for Pacific Northwest farmers to export to India and other countries on the Indian subcontinent where garbanzos and lentils are dietary staples. That region’s cuisine includes many dishes made with small or desi-type chickpeas and with lentils, commonly served with rice and in soups.

Muehlbauer, a geneticist at ARS’ Grain and Legume Genetics Physiology Laboratory in Pullman, headed cooperative breeding efforts with state university scientists from Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Sarah and Crimson received high marks for taste from five families from India and Pakistan, who live in Pullman, Wash., and Moscow, Idaho, and helped the researchers as nonscientific taste-testers.

U.S. farmers will likely appreciate the new legumes, too, according to Muehlbauer.

"Both crops could serve the small, specialty domestic market that now relies on imports," he said. "Plus, Sarah chickpea shows excellent tolerance to a fungal disease, chickpea blight."

"And Crimson red lentil is well adapted not only in moderate rainfall areas in the Northwest, but also in hotter, drier environments. We hope farmers will try it in areas like Montana and the intermediate rainfall zones of Washington, Oregon and Idaho that aren't currently used to grow lentils. That may help get enough of a harvest to build an export market, and provide an additional cash crop for farmers to grow in place of summer fallowing."

The chickpea blight, which leaves fields with a scorched appearance, ruined much of the Northwest's crop in 1987. In the 1988 and 1989 growing seasons, Idaho placed a statewide moratorium on chickpea planting in an effort to suppress the spread of the disease.

The researchers are currently working on a blight-resistant large garbanzo that will meet U.S. consumer preferences for a plump bean.

Grains such as wheat are grown extensively—and often year after year on the same land—in the Northwest. But Muelhbauer said the legumes, which enrich the soil with nitrogen, would be good crops to alternate with grains. Chickpeas also require almost no pesticides.

The name Sarah was chosen because a similar sounding Turkish word, pronounced "sari," means "yellow"—the color of the internal part of the seed. Crimson comes from "krimzi," Turkish for reddish-tan.

Red lentils account for 80 percent of the world's lentil market. The rest are beige-colored lentils, sold in American supermarkets and health food stores in bulk bins.

Julie Corliss (415) 559-6069
Issued: Sept. 19, 1990

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STATES TO RECEIVE \$246 MILLION IN INTERIM NATIONAL FOREST PAYMENTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19—Forty-one states and Puerto Rico will share interim payments totaling \$246 million as their portion of national forest receipts collected in fiscal 1990, F. Dale Robertson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, announced today.

"We estimate these states will eventually receive over \$328 million as

their total payments from national forest receipts for the year,'" Robertson said.

The interim payment represents 75 percent of the estimated total amount each state will receive as its share of funds collected during the year from the sale and use of a variety of national forest products and services. USDA pays any additional funds it owes the states in December, after determining the actual receipts for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

By law, the Forest Service pays 25 percent of the revenue it collects from timber sales, grazing, recreation, minerals, and land uses to states in which national forest lands are located. The funds are used for schools and roads. Last year, the states received total payments of more than \$362 million.

The interim payments do not reflect revenues collected from the national grasslands. National grassland receipts are calculated on a calendar year basis, beginning Jan. 1, and these funds are shared with the states in the spring.

The largest interim payments will go to Oregon, \$111 million; California, \$43 million; Washington, \$26 million; and Idaho, \$10 million.

Interim payments and the estimated 1990 amounts for each state are listed in the following table.

Interim and Estimated Total State Payments for National Forest Receipts

(fiscal 1990)

	Interim Payment	Estimated Total Payment
ALABAMA	996,774.95	1,329,033.27
ALASKA	6,521,913.20	8,695,884.26
ARIZONA	4,202,989.46	5,603,985.95
ARKANSAS	6,206,205.55	8,274,940.73
CALIFORNIA	42,652,057.28	56,869,409.70
COLORADO	2,706,087.39	3,608,116.52
FLORIDA	1,311,750.01	1,749,000.01
GEORGIA	723,937.52	965,250.03

IDAHO	9,684,244.97	12,912,326.62
ILLINOIS	63,856.24	85,141.65
INDIANA	16,258.85	21,678.47
KENTUCKY	330,758.07	441,010.76
LOUISIANA	2,401,127.81	3,201,503.75
MAINE	25,228.62	33,638.16
MICHIGAN	1,508,952.30	2,011,936.40
MINNESOTA	1,526,934.38	2,035,912.51
MISSISSIPPI	3,407,671.88	4,543,562.50
MISSOURI	2,126,343.77	2,835,125.02
MONTANA	7,153,084.70	9,537,446.27
NEBRASKA	29,133.74	38,844.99
NEVADA	229,061.51	305,415.34
NEW HAMPSHIRE	369,255.41	492,340.54
NEW MEXICO	1,357,000.32	1,809,333.76
NEW YORK	7,699.50	10,266.00
NORTH CAROLINA	467,266.25	623,021.67
NORTH DAKOTA	55.67	74.23
OHIO	112,624.03	150,165.37
OKLAHOMA	892,019.51	1,189,359.35
OREGON	111,339,612.90	148,452,817.20
PENNSYLVANIA	2,532,198.08	3,376,264.11
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,529,845.26	3,373,127.01
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,212,178.10	1,616,237.46
TENNESSEE	306,280.02	408,373.36
TEXAS	1,472,399.06	1,963,198.75
UTAH	997,935.26	1,330,580.35
VERMONT	127,562.66	170,083.54
VIRGINIA	295,071.62	393,428.82
WASHINGTON	25,981,143.09	34,641,524.12
WEST VIRGINIA	638,701.09	851,601.45
WISCONSIN	573,031.29	764,041.72
WYOMING	1,040,505.78	1,387,341.04
PUERTO RICO	12,041.45	16,055.27
GRAND TOTAL	\$246,088,798.55	\$328,118,398.03

Ann Matejko (202) 475-3787

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OKLAHOMANS INDICTED FOR CONVERSION OF \$144,000 OF FmHA MORTGAGED PROPERTY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19—U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General Leon Snead announced today that two Oklahoma farmers were indicted late yesterday by a Federal Grand Jury in Oklahoma City, Okla., on charges of conspiracy, conversion, and money laundering. The indictment also includes the criminal forfeiture statute which orders the forfeiture of property derived from the proceeds of the conversions.

Snead said the seven-count indictment charged Gary Edgmon, 34, and his father Jimmy Edgmon, 55, both of Walters, Okla., with conversion of mortgaged property and conspiracy. According to the indictment, the Edgmans illegally sold 355 head of cattle, valued at over \$144,000, which were mortgaged to USDA's Farmers Home Administration. Jimmy Edgmon was also charged with money laundering for using approximately \$60,250 of the proceeds from the cattle sales toward the purchase of a tractor and a 144-acre farm near Lawton, Okla.

The money laundering statute prohibits the use of funds from an unlawful activity in a financial transaction with the intent to conceal the source or ownership of the proceeds. As a result, the indictment also includes the proposed criminal forfeiture of the tractor and farm.

According to Snead, this is the first use of the money laundering and criminal forfeiture statutes in relation to the conversion of FmHA mortgaged property. "We believe this enforcement tool is an effective means of deterring individuals from defrauding the U.S. Government and the public," said Snead.

David F. Dickson (202) 447-6701

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THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS UNCHANGED

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table

White	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0
Light Amber	36.0
Amber	35.0
Nontable.....	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST
John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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USDA ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE 15 PERCENT 1991 WHEAT ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced, based on initial actions taken by House and Senate conferees for the 1990 Farm Bill, it is his intention to require a 15 percent acreage limitation in the 1991 wheat program.

Yeutter previously announced his intention to require an acreage limitation ranging from 10 to 20 percent but could not be more specific due to mutually exclusive wheat Acreage Reduction Program provisions contained in the House and Senate Farm Bill legislation.

"I am pleased that the conferees acted so quickly on this important issue for winter wheat growers. This action proves that farm policy disagreements can be resolved smoothly and quickly when Congress and the administration work together for the benefit of agriculture," said Yeutter.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623
Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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